



Consumer Services Department

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CSD *News Release*

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Miami-Dade Coop Extension to hold Tropical Gardening Classes

Miami-Dade County's Cooperative Extension Division will conduct a series of 'Tropical Gardening Classes' for homeowners on alternate Saturday mornings from August 17 to October 12 at the John D. Campbell Agricultural Center, 18710 SW 288 Street in Homestead.

The classes will cover vegetable gardening, growing tropical fruits, diagnosing common plant problems, insect and pest management and adding colorful plants in the landscape.

Participants will learn which plants are suitable to South Florida and when to plant them. There will be lectures on the differences between beneficial insects and pests, and on environmentally-friendly methods of controlling the pests. And there will be demonstrations on landscaping and on designing a garden for a small space.

Extension Agent Adrian Hunsberger will conduct each session and Carlos Balerdi will teach the tropical fruits class. Hunsberger, who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in horticulture and entomology respectively, writes a weekly gardening column in the [Miami Herald](#) and a monthly column in the [Dade Munroe Grower](#). Balerdi, who holds a PhD. in horticulture is an expert in tropical horticulture.

Registration for each class will begin at 8:30 and the sessions will go from 9:00 until 12 noon. The deadline for pre-registration is the Thursday before the session takes place. Participants who pre-register will be charged \$12.50 while registration on the morning of the session will cost \$15. Homeowners interested in pre-registering should call the Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service at 305-248-3311, ext. 225.

The Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service is a joint project of the Consumer Services Department and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.